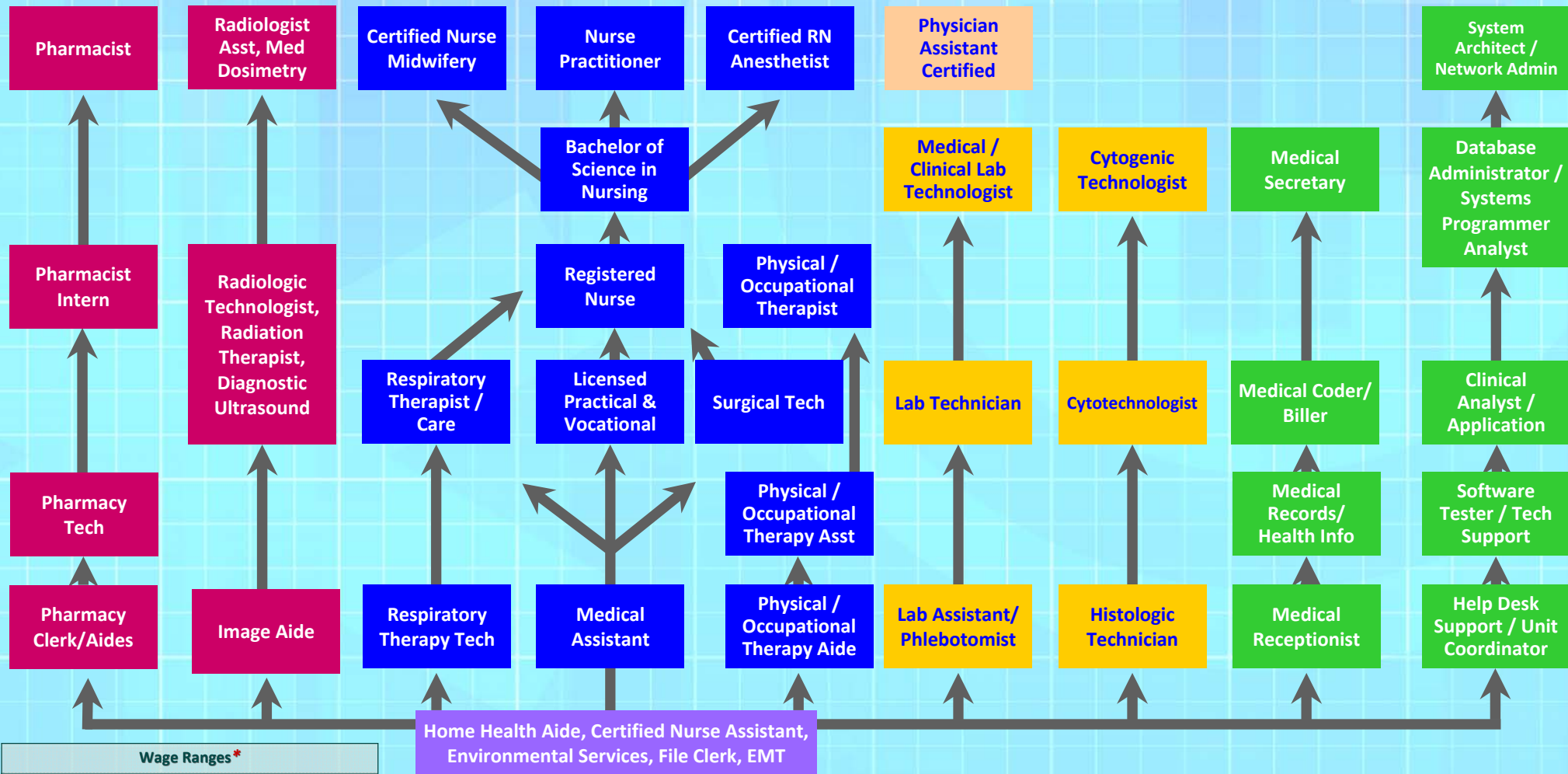


# Career Paths in Health Care



Wage Ranges*	
	Starting → + Experience/Education
Medical Assistant	\$13.31 → \$20.56
Pharmacy Clerk/Aide	\$8.72 → \$16.10
Physical/Occ. Therapy Asst.	\$19.27 → \$30.02
Lab Technician	\$13.49 → \$24.80
Medical Secretary	\$13.19 → \$24.50
Registered Nurse	\$26.05 → \$48.99
Respiratory Therapist	\$22.81 → \$38.27
Radiologic Technologist	\$22.41 → \$42.50

Source: Career Path adapted from [www.HealthCareWork.info](http://www.HealthCareWork.info), a project of the Northwest Alliance for Health Skills and NW WDC

A wide range of certificates and degrees are offered by the 11 community and technical colleges located throughout King County. To locate a college near you and learn more about the programs available, visit [www.sbctc.ctc.edu](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu) and click on "Colleges." Or visit [www.checkoutcollege.com](http://www.checkoutcollege.com).

\*These are average hourly wages in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MSA, March 2009, [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com)

# Health Care

## ***Trends***

Health care has become one of the largest employment sectors in Washington State. Statewide, the health care industry has consistently led other industries in terms of job openings (*Washington State Job Vacancy Survey Report*, Washington State Employment Security Department, June 2009). In King County, employment growth in the health care sector was steady during the last decade, with more than 14,000 new jobs added between 2000 and 2007. Despite a slowdown with the economic recession that began in 2008, employment growth in health care has remained positive, and the industry is expected to see average annual growth of 1.9% from 2007 to 2017 (Washington State Employment Security Department).

Employers in King County and across the state continue to report job vacancies for health care practitioners and support personnel. Of the total job vacancies reported in King County in October 2009, the largest concentration (representing 16% of total vacancies) was in the health care industry (*Job Vacancy Survey*, Washington State Employment Security Department, October 2009).

In particular, hospital vacancies have remained high or increased in most professions for three straight years, most notably in nursing, imaging, rehabilitation, operating rooms, and laboratory departments (*Results of the 2008 Hospital Work Force Survey*, Washington State Hospital Association/Health Workforce Institute, June 2009). This trend, combined with the expected convergence of an aging population (increasing the demand for health care services) and an aging workforce (accelerating attrition) on the horizon, ensures that jobs in nursing and allied health will continue to be in demand.

## ***Wages***

The average annual wage in King County for Healthcare and Social Assistance in 2009 quarter 1 was \$46,118 (source: Washington State Employment Security Department).

*[Note: Wages are averages of all occupations within the sector – including entry level and high level positions.]*

**For detailed information about occupations within this sector** (e.g. current wage ranges per occupation, training schools, employment projections, and a link to jobs listed at WorkSource):

1. Go to [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com),
2. Click on the 'Wage and Benefit Information' link, and
3. Click on the 'Occupation Explorer' link to start your search.

# Resources for Education and Career Planning

## O\*NET Online

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

A nation-wide career exploration resource, the O\*NET database contains information about hundreds of occupations, including job tasks, education requirements, and wages.

## Washington Workforce Explorer

<http://workforceexplorer.com>

Workforce Explorer provides career and economic information for Washington State. You will find career assessment and planning tools in the Career Center section and find occupation wage information by county in the Wage and Benefit information section.

## Washington Career Bridge

[www.careerbridge.wa.gov](http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov)

Career Bridge is a one-stop, searchable database of education and training programs throughout Washington state where you'll discover:

- Available training programs.
- Average earnings and employment outlook for each career choice.
- Hot jobs for the future.
- What you'll need to learn to get those jobs.

This site was created by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, a partnership of labor, business and government.

## Self-Sufficiency Calculator

[www.thecalculator.org](http://www.thecalculator.org)

The Calculator includes a variety of resources, including the Self Sufficiency Standard. The Self Sufficiency Standard for Washington measures how much income is needed for a family of a given composition - ranging from a one person household to a large family - in a given place, to adequately meet basic needs without any public or private assistance. The Self Sufficiency Calculator can help you:

- Plan and develop career goals so you can work towards a better paying job.
- Decide if a job you are considering will pay enough to meet your family's needs.
- Determine if you might be eligible for public benefits that can help with expenses like health care or child care.
- Test and compare different work or living options and see how they affect your bottom line.

## WorkSource

[www.go2worksource.com](http://www.go2worksource.com) (Statewide) • [www.worksourceskc.org](http://www.worksourceskc.org) (Seattle-King County)

Washington's career and employment website offering information about career services available at local WorkSource offices as well as a number of career planning and job search tools and links.